

(Washington, DC) Today, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings (D-Miramar) and Congressman Kendrick B. Meek (D-Miami) introduced the Gulf Coast Conservation Act of 2010. This legislation would create jobs by forming a workforce to assist in the clean-up and restoration efforts in the Gulf Coast following the BP oil spill. **(Please find attached a copy of the bill).**

“Even before the oil spill, the region was suffering under extraordinary unemployment levels,” said Hastings. “The tourist industry contributed 620,000 jobs and over \$9 billion in wages to the Gulf region. The fishing industry supports over 200,000 jobs with related economic activity of \$5.5 billion. With so much of the federal waters unavailable for fishing and so many tourists cancelling planned vacations, the dire need to get people back to work is obvious.”

“The Gulf Coast Conservation Corps is a win-win: Not only will the program create a workforce to clean-up the worst environmental disaster in American history, but it will also tackle the problem of chronic unemployment in Gulf Coast communities,” said Meek. “I’m thrilled to join Rep. Hastings to jumpstart a vital public-private partnership that will benefit our country for years to come.”

The Gulf Coast Conservation Corps program will be similar to that of the Civil Conservation Corps, which was created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the Great Depression. The Corps will be a partnership between government and business and will provide workers with the means, training and knowledge they need to clean-up the environmental disaster in the Gulf Coast.

On April 20, the BP operated Deepwater Horizon oil rig exploded and sank, starting a chain of events that would lead to the worst environmental disaster in the history of the United States. Since BP was unable to stop the leak at the time of the explosion, oil has continually been pouring into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico since April. Current estimates hold that 60,000 barrels of crude oil enter the Gulf every day and that this catastrophe is well on its way to being the largest oil spill in history. This disaster has had devastating consequences both environmentally and economically. The oil continues to threaten marine and wildlife habitats, causing great harm to the plants and animals they support. Persons dependent upon the Gulf to make a living, specifically in the fishing and tourism industries have become victims of the oil spill and many have become unemployed.

Joining Hastings and Meek as an original co-sponsor of this bill is Representative Henry C. “Hank” Johnson, Jr. (GA).

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 [Gulf Coast Conservation Corps.pdf](#)